



CHAND BIBI

THE FEARLESS QUEEN

Vol 685

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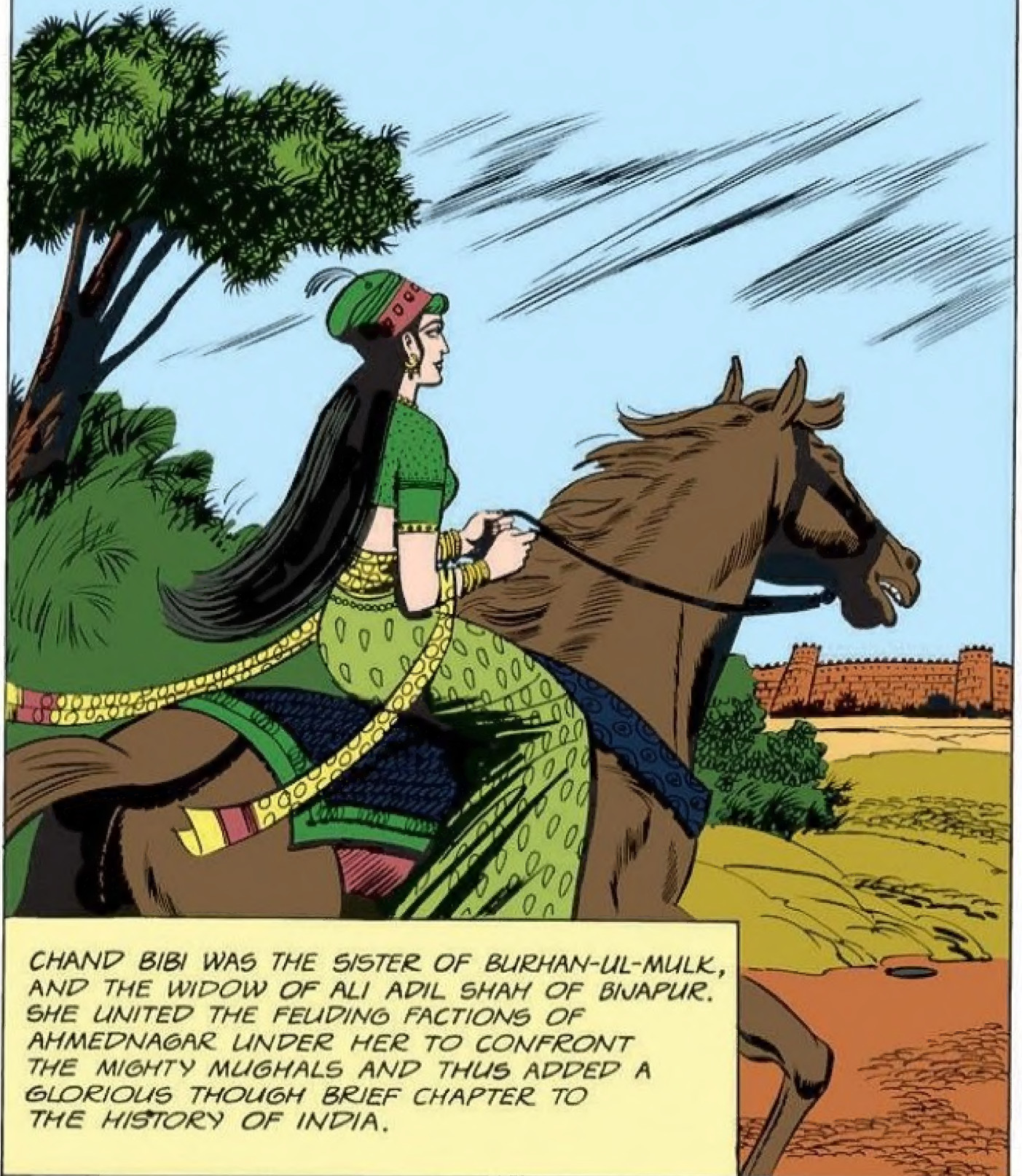
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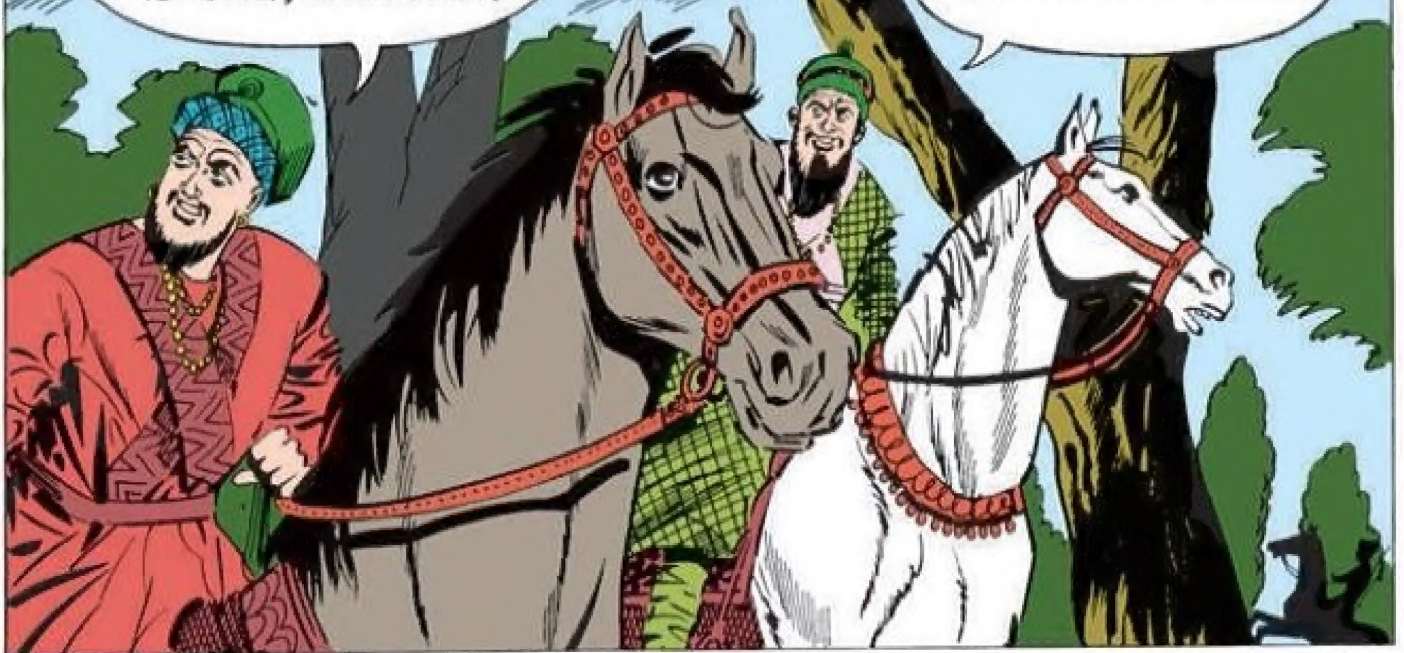


CHAND BIBI WAS THE SISTER OF BURHAN-UL-MULK, AND THE WIDOW OF ALI ADIL SHAH OF BIIAPUR. SHE UNITED THE FEUDING FACTIONS OF AHMEDNAGAR UNDER HER TO CONFRONT THE MIGHTY MUGHALS AND THUS ADDED A GLORIOUS THOUGH BRIEF CHAPTER TO THE HISTORY OF INDIA.

THE SPACIOUS TURF OF AHMEDNAGAR WHERE ALL SEEMED PEACEFUL AS USUAL, WAS IDEAL FOR THE QUIET CHAT OF THE NOBLEMEN.

THAT WOMAN RIDES WITH THE EASE OF A WARRIOR! WHO IS SHE, MURTAZA?

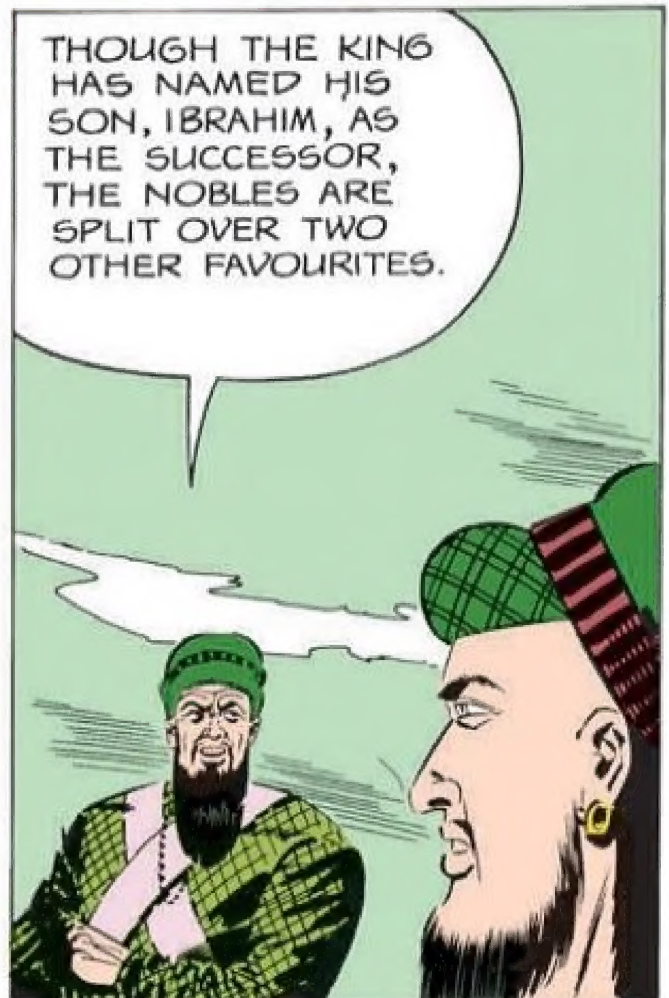
CHAND BIBI, THE SISTER OF OUR RULER, BURHAN-UL-MULK.

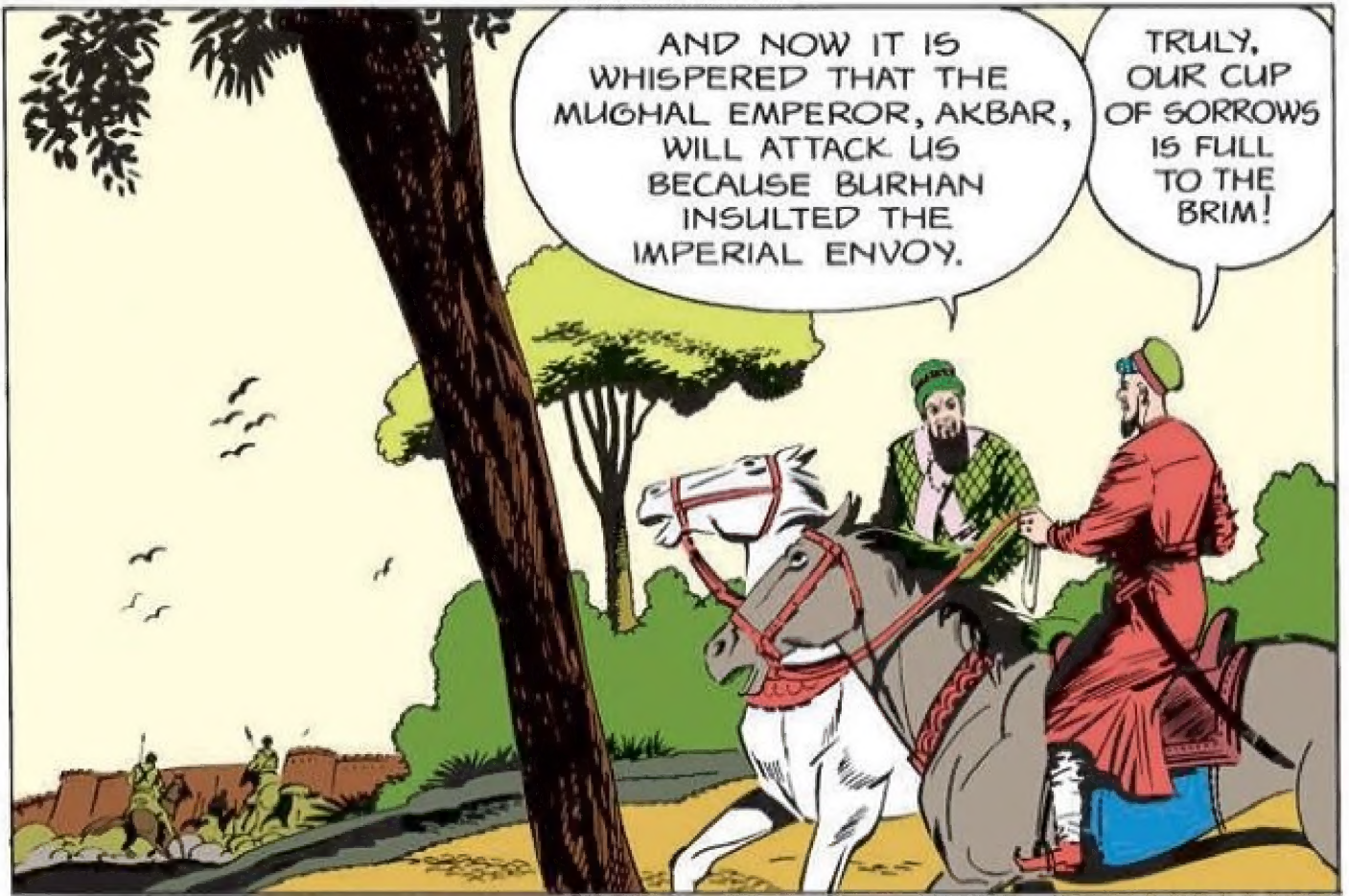


SHE HAS QUITE A REGAL BEARING, MURTAZA! AND HOW IS HER BROTHER NOW? STILL VERY ILL?

WELL, AFZAL, ONE DAY HE SEEMS AT DEATH'S DOOR - ON THE NEXT HE IS AT A BANQUET, RICH WITH FOOD AND WINE!

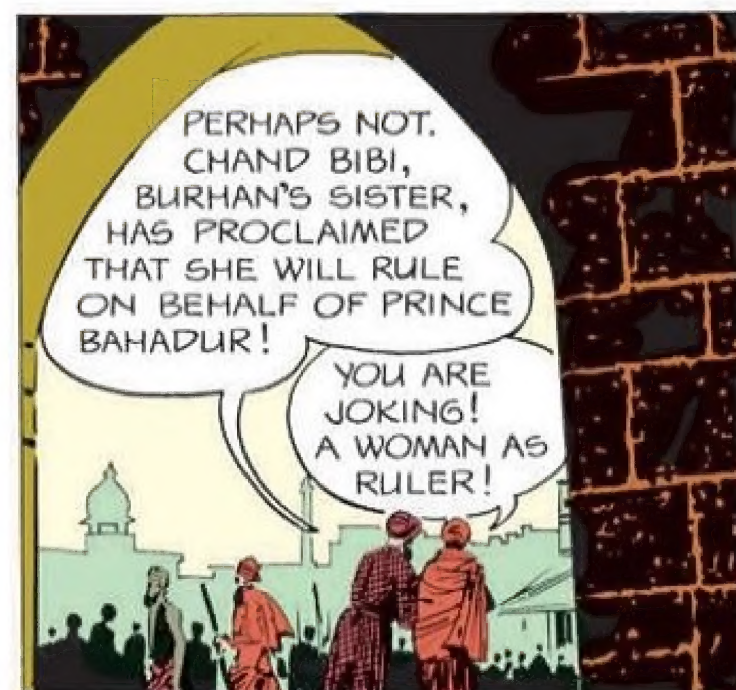


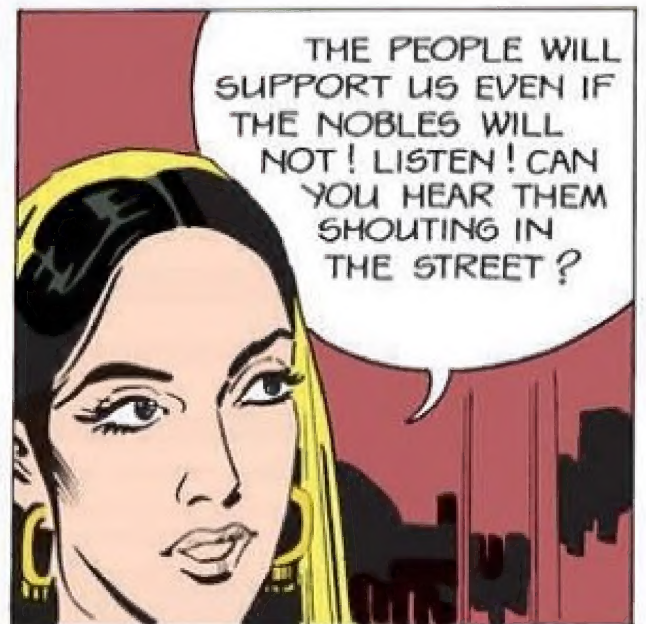




NOT LONG AFTER, THE AILING BURHAN-UL-MULK DIED, AND HIS SON, IBRAHIM WAS PROCLAIMED KING. AT THE PALACE HALL, LARGE NUMBERS OF NOBLEMEN WAITED AROUND THE EMPTY THRONE FOR THE NEW KING.











AKBAR WAS EAGER FOR AN ENTRY INTO THE DECCAN POLITICS. MANJHU'S INVITATION WAS OPPORTUNE. AKBAR SENT AN ARMY WITH HIS SON PRINCE MURAD IN CHARGE.

PRINCE MURAD, THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO SHOW THE DECCAN RULERS THE MUGHAL MIGHT.

UNDER MY COMMAND THE MUGHAL ARMY SHALL PROVE ITS WORTH.



BUT AKBAR DOUBTFUL OF MURAD'S ABILITIES ALSO SENT THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WITH THE ARMY. DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO DELAYED THE ARMY'S PROGRESS.



FINALLY THE MUGHAL ARMY REACHED A PLACE NOT FAR FROM AHMEDNAGAR AND CAMPED THERE FOR THE NIGHT.

UGH! I AM TIRED OF THESE DELAYS. INSTEAD OF FIGHTING, WE SIT AROUND FIRES LIKE OLD WOMEN!



ANYWAY, WE WILL REACH AHMEDNAGAR IN TWO DAYS.



THE NEXT MORNING, THE
MUGHAL ARMY ADVANCED,
READY FOR BATTLE.



THE ELEPHANTS WERE
COLOURFULLY CAPARISONED.



THE CANNONS
WERE OILED AND
CLEANED.



THE INFANTRY
MARCHED ALONG
SMARTLY.

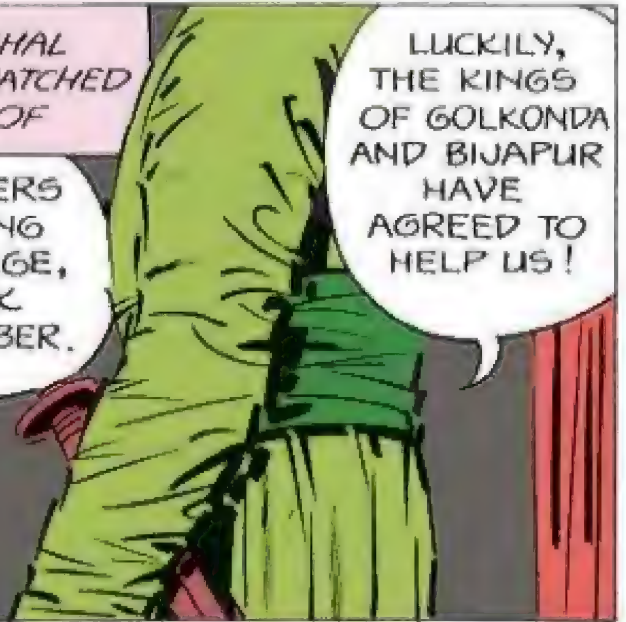


MEANWHILE, AT AHMEDNAGAR, THE MUGHAL APPROACH, SLOW BUT STEADY, WAS WATCHED WITH FEAR BY EVERYONE... BUT MOST OF ALL BY CHAND BIBI.



OUR SOLDIERS ARE STRONG IN COURAGE, BUT WEAK IN NUMBER.

LUCKILY, THE KINGS OF GOLKONDA AND BIJAPUR HAVE AGREED TO HELP US!



BUT THEIR ARMIES HAVE YET TO COME.

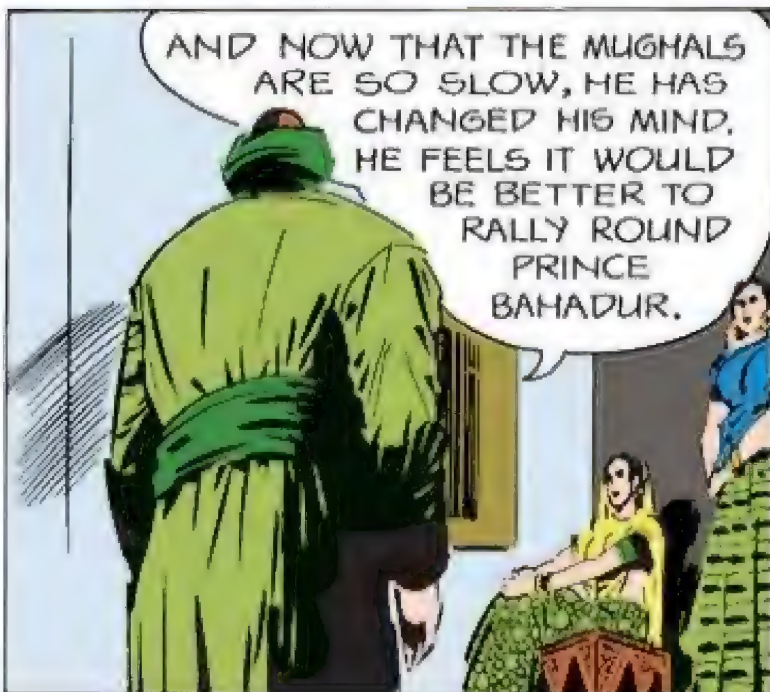


BY INVITING THE MUGHALS, MIYAN MANJHU HAS ADDED TO OUR TROUBLES.

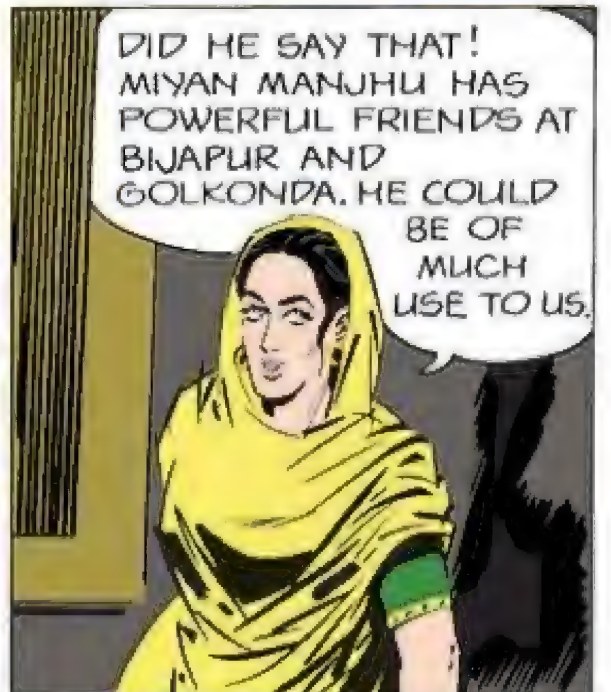


YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM IF HE LOST HIS HEAD! THINGS WERE VERY BAD HERE.

AND NOW THAT THE MUGHALS ARE SO SLOW, HE HAS CHANGED HIS MIND. HE FEELS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RALLY ROUND PRINCE BAHADUR.



DID HE SAY THAT! MIYAN MANJHU HAS POWERFUL FRIENDS AT BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA. HE COULD BE OF MUCH USE TO US.



CHAND BIBI SENT FOR MIYAN MANJHU AND GAINED HIS ALLEGIANCE. SHE THEN ENTRUSTED HIM WITH A VERY IMPORTANT MISSION.

I APPOINT YOU MY ENVOY TO THE COURTS OF BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA. ONLY IF THEY RUSH THEIR ARMIES CAN WE HOPE TO RESIST THE MUGHALS.

I SHALL DO MY BEST, BEGUM SAHIBA!

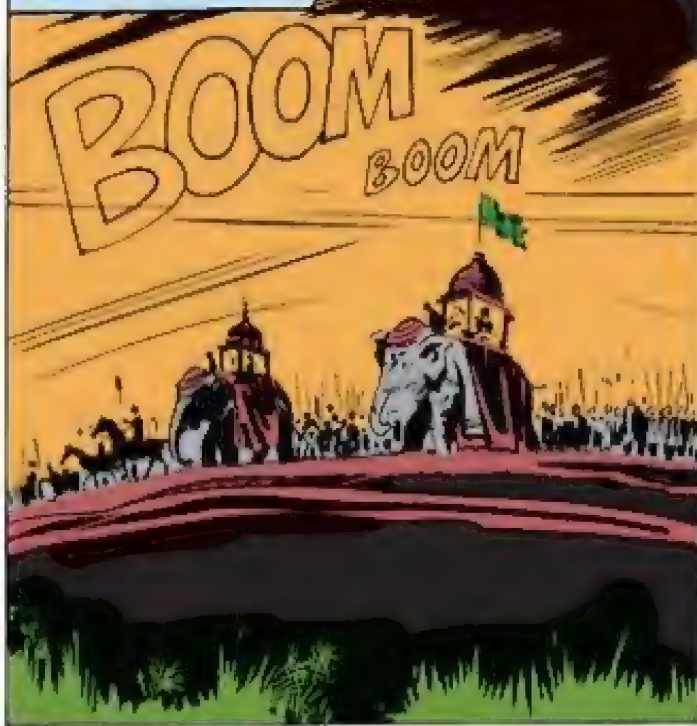


CHAND BIBI WAS NOW THE VIRTUAL RULER OF THE KINGDOM, HAVING QUELLED ALL OPPOSITION. SHE GAVE ORDERS TO THE ARMY TO BE READY. BUT HER HEART WAS NOT WITHOUT ANXIETY.

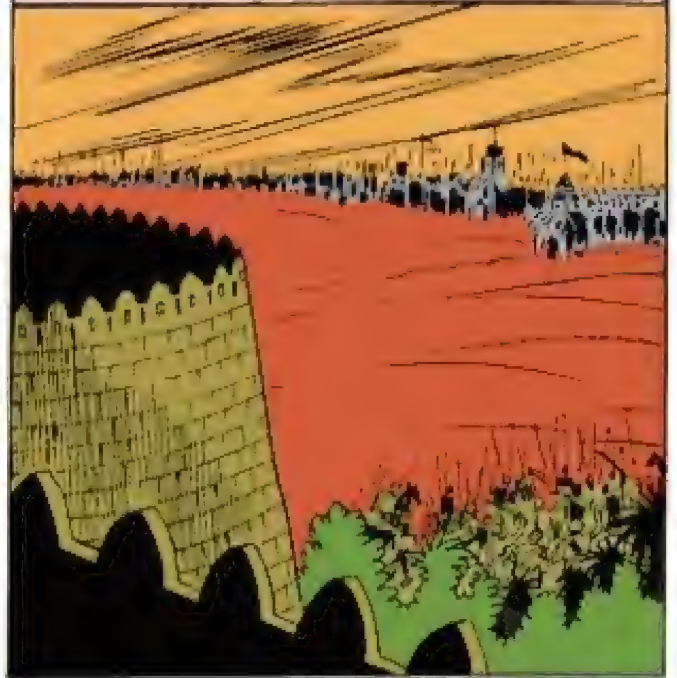
MY HEART IS FULL OF FOREBODING. WILL HELP COME IN TIME? WHICHEVER SIDE WINS, MANY WILL LOSE THEIR LIVES!



WHEN THE MUGHAL ARMY FINALLY ARRIVED, IT WAS GREETED BY A VOLLEY OF SHOTS FROM AHMEDNAGAR FORT. THE BATTLE HAD BEGUN!



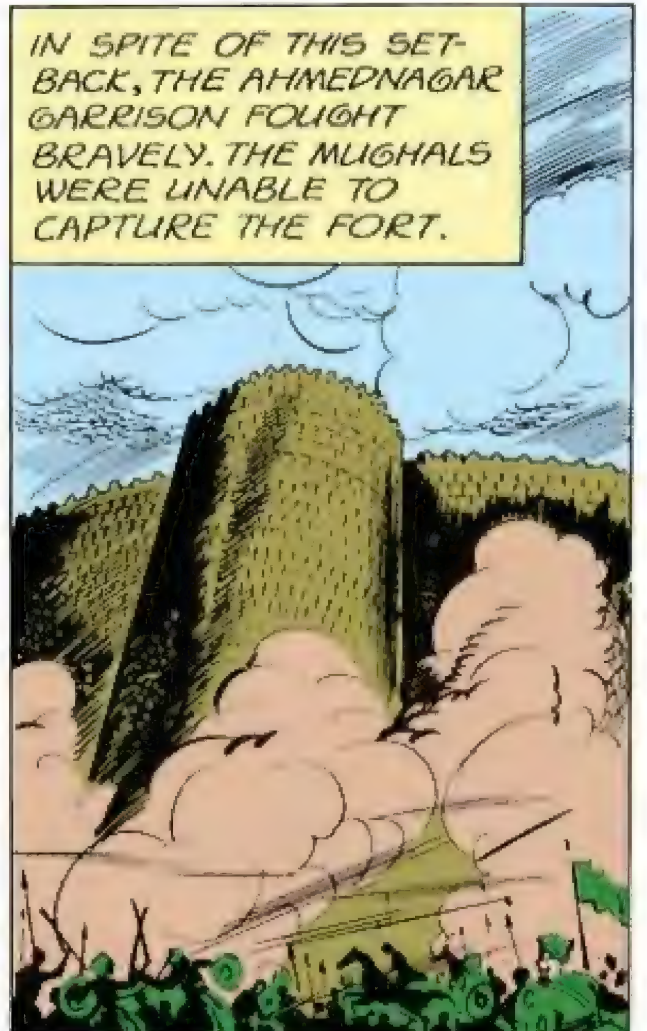
THE MUGHAL ARMY TRIED TO SURROUND THE FORT, BUT THEY COULD NOT. FROM WITHIN THE FORT A GENERAL CAME OUT AND ATTACKED THEM WHERE HE SAW A GAP.



BUT HIS CONTINGENT WAS SLAUGHTERED BY THE MUGHALS.



IN SPITE OF THIS SET-BACK, THE AHMEDNAGAR GARRISON FOUGHT BRAVELY. THE MUGHALS WERE UNABLE TO CAPTURE THE FORT.



IN THE MEANTIME
A MESSENGER CAME
RUNNING TO CHAND BIBI.



BEGUM SAHIBA, THE
ARMIES FROM BIJAPUR
AND GOLKONDA ARE
ON THEIR WAY.



THIS IS
GOOD
NEWS!



HOWEVER, WE
SHOULD NOT
REJOICE
TILL THEY ARE
HERE.



ASK OUR MEN
TO KEEP A
CLOSE WATCH
ON THE
ENEMY. THIS
NEWS WILL
MAKE THEM
CHANGE THEIR
TACTICS.



I HAVE SOME OF MY
BEST SPIES ON
THE JOB. THE
SLIGHTEST MOVE
WILL BE REPORTED
TO US.





THE MUGHALS BUILT FIVE MINES LEADING UPTO THE FORT AND FILLED THEM WITH GUNPOWDER.

WHEN THIS MINE EXPLODES, THE FORT WILL BE BLOWN TO BITS!

AND THESE OTHERS WILL BLOW UP THE WALL IN MINUTES.



LUCKILY CHAND BIBI'S SPIES WERE ON THE ALERT AND REPORTED THE MATTER TO HER SOLDIERS.

HE SAYS, THEY PLAN TO BLOW UP THE FORT...


...AND THE CITY WALLS! CHAND BIBI MUST BE INFORMED OF THIS.



THE MEN HASTENED TO THE PALACE TO GIVE CHAND BIBI THE NEWS.

BEGUM SAHIBA, THE MUGHALS HAVE BUILT FIVE MINES LEADING TO THE FORT AND WALLS!

THEY MAY EXPLODE ANY MINUTE!



THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE THE FORT!

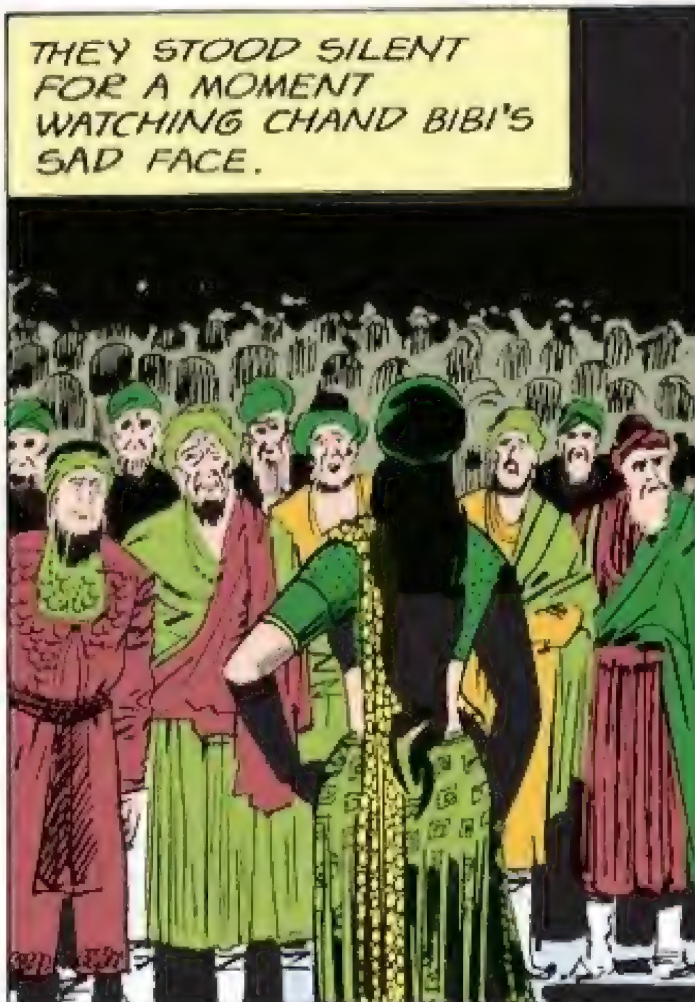


HOW?

HOW?

HOW CAN WE SAVE THE FORT?



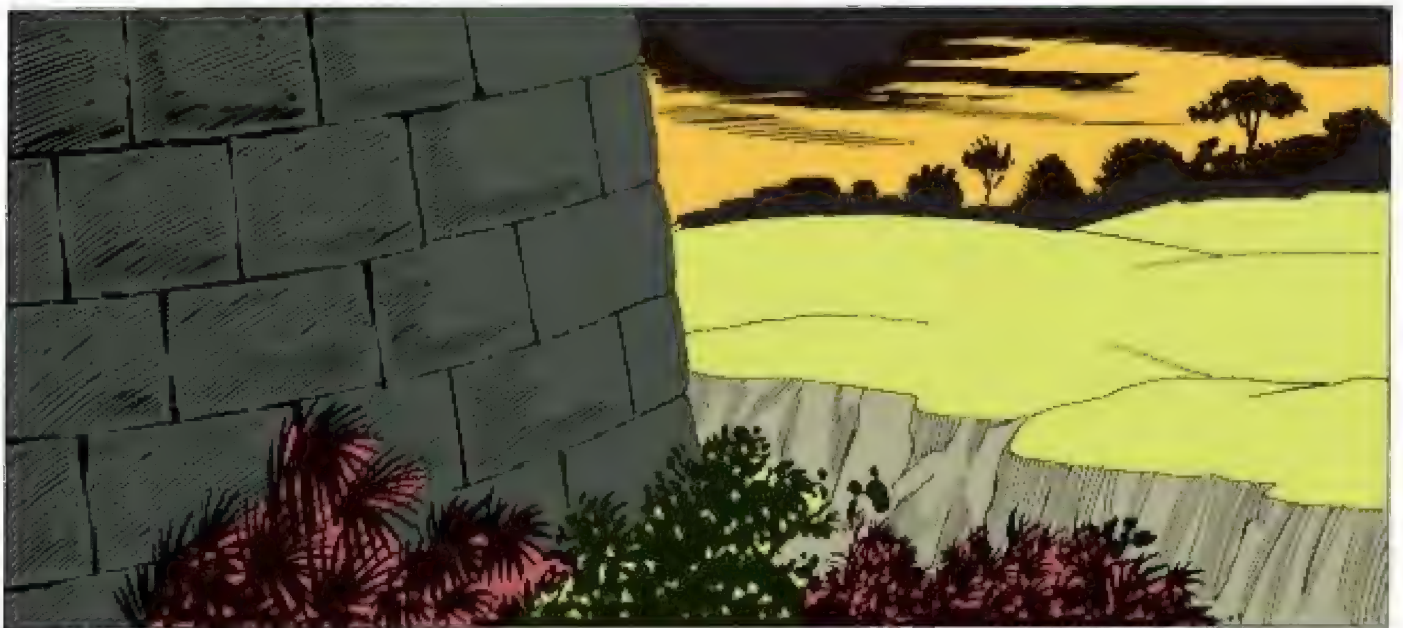


THE BRAVE SOLDIERS
OF AHMEDNAGAR SET
TO WORK TO OPEN
THE MINES.



I HAD
ASKED TO
JOIN AS A
HORSEMAN!

AND THEY
DIDN'T LET
YOU, OF
COURSE!



THE DAWN WAS NEAR, BUT THE GARRISON CONTINUED TO WORK FURIOUSLY, FOR THERE WERE MINES STILL TO BE OPENED.



FORTUNATELY IN THE MUGHAL CAMP, THE SENTRIES WERE ASLEEP.



THE ONLY PERSON AWAKE WAS A SMALL BOY, PRINCE MURAD'S CUP-BEARER, WHO WAS STANDING OUTSIDE, YAWNING SLEEPILY.



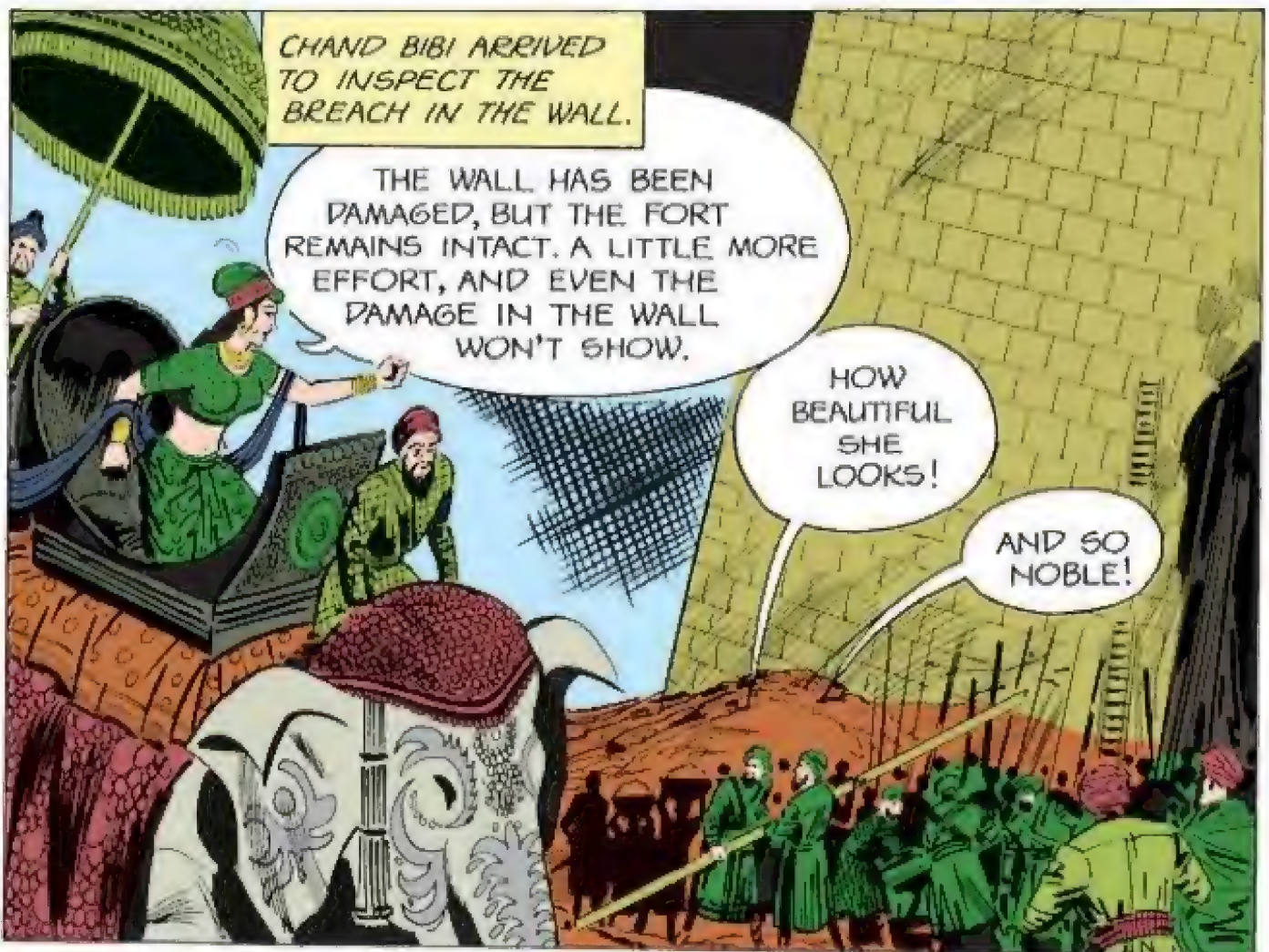
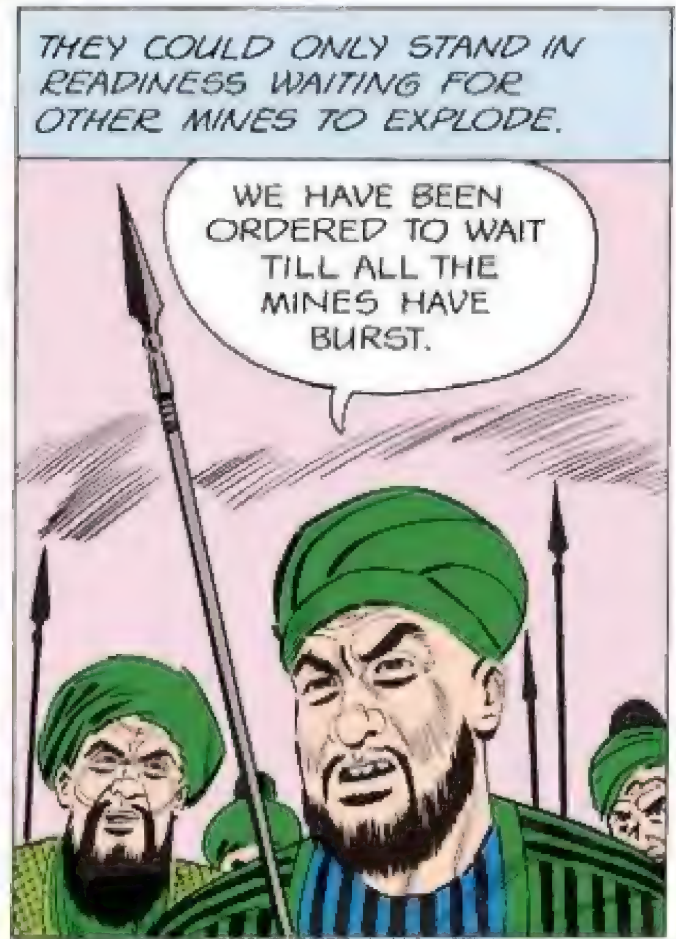
SUDDENLY, HE STOOD TRANSFIXED FOR A MOMENT, HIS MOUTH AGAPE. HE HAD SPOTTED THE MEN OPENING THE MINES.

YA, ALLAH!
THEY ARE
OPENING
THE MINES!









MEANWHILE PRINCE MURAD WAS STILL WAITING FOR THE OTHER MINES TO EXPLODE...



...WHEN TWO OF HIS MEN BURST IN WITH AGITATION.

THE BREACH IN THE WALL IS ALMOST CLOSED.

YOU MUST GIVE THE ORDER FOR BATTLE! THE TROOPS ARE BECOMING RESTLESS!



A SOUND WAS HEARD OUTSIDE.

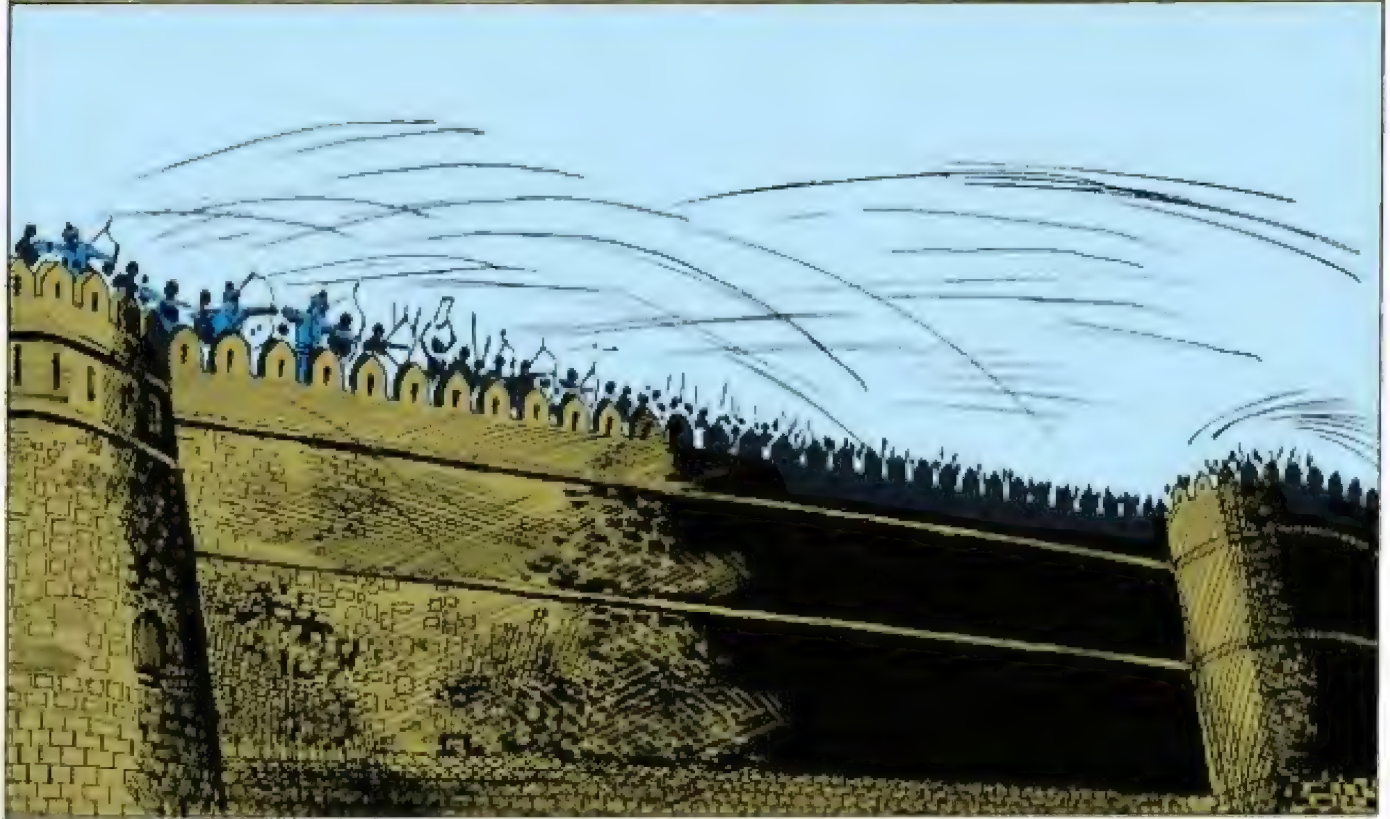
THAT NOISE! IT SOUNDS LIKE BULLETS!



AHMEDNAGAR HAS BEGUN THE ATTACK!



HAVING ALMOST REPAIRED THE WALL, CHAND BIBI DECIDED TO ATTACK WHILE THE MUGHALS WERE STILL OFF THEIR GUARD.



THE MUGHALS
RETURNED
THE FIRE.



BUT THEY WERE
REPULSED BY
CANNON-BALLS AND
BULLETS FROM
THE GARRISON.



FERCE FIGHTING ENSUED.
PRINCE MURAD HIMSELF WAS
PRESENT NEAR THE TRENCHES
TO ENCOURAGE HIS SOLDIERS.



BUT THE MUGHALS SUFFERED
HEAVY LOSSES.



THEY WERE UNABLE TO CAPTURE THE FORT. BEFORE NIGHTFALL, PRINCE MURAD AND HIS MEN RETURNED TO CAMP.

IT'S NO USE FIGHTING NOW. WE MIGHT AS WELL RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT!



BUT CHAND BIBI REMAINED AT THE WALL WHILE HER MEN CONTINUED TO REPAIR THE BREACH.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO REST TILL THE WALL IS FULLY REPAIRED.

SHE IS RIGHT! THE MUGHALS SHOULD HAVE NO WAY TO ENTER OUR CITY.





